



## *The Disciples Gawk at Temple, Jesus Warns of Deception*

The prophets prophesy lies in my name; I didn't send them, neither have I commanded them, neither spoke I to them: they prophesy to you a lying vision, and divination, and a thing of nothing, and the deceit of their own heart. — Jeremiah 14:14

[Matthew 24:1-9, leaving Jerusalem, Tuesday] Jesus went out from the temple, and was going on his way. His disciples came to him to show him the buildings of the temple

*how it was decorated with beautiful stones and gifts.* One of his disciples said to him, "Teacher, see what kind of stones and what kind of buildings!" But he answered them, "You see all of these great buildings, don't you? Most certainly I tell you, there will not be left here one stone on another, that will not be thrown down."

As he sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, the disciples Peter, James, John, and Andrew, came to him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? What is the sign that these things are all about to be fulfilled—of your coming, and of the end of the age?"

Jesus answered them, "Be careful that no one leads you astray. For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will lead many astray. You will hear of wars *and disturbances* and rumors of wars. See that you aren't troubled, for all this must happen, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation,

Be careful that no one leads you astray

and kingdom against kingdom; and there will be famines, plagues, and earthquakes in various places. *There will be terrors and great signs from heaven.* But all these things are the beginning of birth pains. Then they will deliver you up to oppression, and will kill you. You will be hated by all of the nations for my name's sake.

*"But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and will persecute you, delivering you up to synagogues and prisons, bringing you before kings and governors for my name's sake. It will turn out as a testimony for you. Settle it therefore in your hearts not to meditate beforehand how to answer, for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to withstand or to contradict. For it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. You will be handed over even by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends. They will cause some of you to be put to death. You will be hated by all men for my name's sake. And not a hair of your head will perish.*

*"By your endurance you will win your lives."*  
[Mark 13:1-13, Luke 21:5-19]

1. List the signs; have they happened? How are they like birth pains? Can today be the end?
2. What can lead you astray? How can you endure? What tension is there in your family?
3. Jesus, you may come back even before I finish this prayer, so I commit to being ready by...